

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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USIAC

FOR: USIA/ILA; STATE FOR CU/CHAPLIN

SUBJ: POSSIBLE THIRD COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN MEXICO WRITERS
CONFERENCE

REF: HIGGINS/KEY; HIGGINS/ALBRIGHT TELECONS SEPT. 9

1. AS CU AND AGENCY ARE AWARE, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH WASHINGTON ON A MULTI-COUNTRY "WRITERS IN SOCIETY" SEMINAR FOR WELL OVER A YEAR AND THIS POST WAS ENCOURAGED TO HEAR FROM ILA'S DIRECTOR DILLON RECENTLY THAT PLANS FINALLY APPEARED TO BE WELL UNDERWAY FOR SUCH A SEMINAR IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE SPRING OF 1976.

2. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT RPT NOT AWARE UNTIL CU'S GWEN CLARE ARRIVED IN CARACAS ON CONSULTATION SEPTEMBER 8 THAT USIS MEXICO WAS DEEP INTO A SIMILAR, HIGHLY IMPRESSIVE PROJECT PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY, 1976, WITH A HIGHLY IMPOSING LIST OF POSSIBLE US. AND MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS.

3. WE APPLAUD MEXICO'S INITIATIVE AND SUGGEST THAT USIS MEXICO, CU AND ILA CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING ITS PROJECT TO INCLUDE ONE DISTINGUISHED WRITER FROM EACH OF THE COUNTRIES SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE US. SEMINAR. IN FACT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT MEXICO ALREADY PLANS TO INVITE PERU'S MARIO VARGAS LOSA.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE MEXICAN PROJECT, IF ENLARGED AS
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SUGGESTED ABOVE, WOULD IN ANY WAY AFFECT ADVERSELY THE CHANCES

FOR A SUCCESSFUL LATER PROJECT IN THE UNITED STATES. QUITE
THE CONTRARY, SINCE THE MEXICAN CONFERENCE COULD PROVIDE CU AND
USIA WITH VALUABLE EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO THE MAJOR BICENTENNIAL
"WRITERS IN SOCIETY" COLLOQUIUM IN THE UNITED STATES
PERHAPS IN THE FALL OF 1976. WE VENTURE TO SUGGEST THAT
HARVARD'S PROFESSOR JUAN MARISCAL, WHO IS A GOOD FRIEND OF

OCTAVIO PAZ, MIGHT BE INVITED TO THE MEXICAN CONFERENCE SINCE
HARVARD IS BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED AS A LOCUS FOR THE US.
GATHERING.

5. USIS VENEZUELA WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE ANY CONTRIBUTION IT
CAN TO THE SUCCESS OF SUCH A VENTURE AND GLAD TO CONSULT
WITH MEXICO, IF THIS WERE DESIRED.
HIGGINS

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